

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



August 2, 2021

Urine Drug Testing Reimbursement Policy

On October 1, 2021, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will implement a new reimbursement policy requesting providers adhere to National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Manual guidance, for reimbursement of presumptive and definitive urine drug testing to ensure these services are reported at the most specific coding levels and reimbursed accurately.

Summary

As the cost of health care continues to rise, Blue Cross is committed to improving the sustainability of care by ensuring high-quality, appropriate care is delivered at a fair price and billed appropriately for the services provided to our members.

To that end, Blue Cross has implemented a new reimbursement policy to help ensure Urine Drug Testing (UDT) services are reimbursed accurately.

Products Impacted

This policy only applies to commercial lines of business.

Next steps for providers

Blue Cross will not initially deny or recoup UDT claims as a result of this reimbursement policy. Instead, claims containing less specific codes may be reviewed on a post-payment basis and additional documentation requested. The expectation is that use of the most specific codes improves billing accuracy.

Providers are asked to:

- Review the reimbursement policy
- Adjust internal policies and procedures to ensure alignment with this policy
- Comply with requests from Blue Cross for additional documentation when less specific codes are billed.

Reimbursement policy

- This is not a change in medical policy or member benefits, but a change in reimbursement policy. Reimbursement policies are updated on an ongoing basis and used by Blue Cross to define if and how certain claims will be paid for various health care services.
- Blue Cross will not be denying claims or recouping payment as a result of this reimbursement policy at this time.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.